

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

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DRAFTEE BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER

APPROVED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. CAROLAN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JULY 22:

Q. ARE YOU PREPARED TO SAY TODAY, AS REPORTED IN ONE MAJOR
NEWSPAPER, THAT THE UNITED STATES RECOMMENDED ISRAEL'S
PROPOSALS TO EGYPT?

A. ON THAT I STAY WITH WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY, THAT WE DO
NOT NOW AND HAVE NOT IN THE PAST, DO NOT NOW, ENDORSE
EITHER SIDE'S POSITION HERE. WE PASS THEM ON.

Q. BUT DID YOU RECOMMEND IT?

A. I JUST STAY WHERE I AM.

Q. MAYBE, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THERE'S A SEMANTIC
DIFFICULTY. "ENDORSEMENT" TO ME MEANS -- AND MAYBE TO SOME
OTHERS OF US -- MEANS WE THINK IT'S A GOOD PLAN, YOU KNOW.

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BUT "RECOMMEND" MAY SIMPLY BE, "WE THINK YOU OUGHT TO
ACCEPT THIS, IT'S WORKABLE." NOW, WILL YOU PLEASE USE HER
WORDS? I MEAN DID THE UNITED STATES RECOMMEND? I DIDN'T
ASK YOU IF THEY ENDORSED IT. WE'RE NOT ASKING THAT. DID
THEY RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE OF THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL,
WHETHER OR NOT THEY THINK IT'S TERRIFIC?

Q. "RECOMMEND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION," IF I MAY.

A. WE FORWARDED, THROUGH AMBASSADOR EILTS, THE LATEST
ISRAELI VIEWS TO THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

Q. DO YOU RECOMMEND IT BE ACCEPTED OR NOT?

A. WE RECOMMEND, OBVIOUSLY, THAT THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT REVIEW THESE ISRAELI VIEWS. AND ON THAT QUESTION, BY THE WAY, THE SECRETARY WILL BE RECEIVING FURTHER MATERIAL FROM AMBASSADOR EILTS. I WOULD SAY PROBABLY WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS THE SECRETARY WILL BE MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DINITZ. BUT AS OF NOW NO APPOINTMENT HAS BEEN SET UP.

Q. IS EILTS COMING BACK?

A. TO MY KNOWLEDGE HE IS NOT COMING BACK.

Q. DO YOU MEAN HE IS WAITING TO SEE AMBASSADOR DINITZ UNTIL HE GETS STILL MORE REPORTS FROM --

A. YES. FURTHER MATERIAL, ADDITIONAL MATERIAL, IS COMING FROM AMBASSADOR EILTS, AFTERWHICH THE SECRETARY WILL BE MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DINITZ. BUT NO APPOINTMENT HAS YET BEEN SET UP.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANYTHING SINCE THE INITIAL EILTS REPORT TO THE SECRETARY FROM HIM ON THE EGYPTIAN POSITION?

A. HERE AGAIN, AS WE GOT INTO THIS YESTERDAY, OF THE TEMPERATURE TAKING, THERE HAVE BEEN ADDITIONAL REPORTS COMING IN. THERE WILL BE MORE. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TELEGRAMS THAT THE SECRETARY HAS RECEIVED FROM HERMANN, BUT IT'S A CONTINUING PROCESS, AND HE'S EXPECTING MORE UNCLASSIFIED

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MATERIAL. THAT'S WHAT THE SECRETARY TOLD ME THIS MORNING.

Q. DID THE SECRETARY PASS ON THE ISRAELI VIEWS TO THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT WITHOUT COMMENT?

A. I DO NOT KNOW. IF I CAN GO ON PAST EXPERIENCE, YOU ALL KNOW THAT THE SECRETARY, IN PASSING ON VIEWS FROM ONE SIDE TO THE OTHER, WILL GIVE HIS OPINION ON THESE VIEWS ON

OCCASION. WHETHER HE DID IN THIS SPECIFIC CASE I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. HAVE YOU HEARD FROM EITHER EILTS OR THE EGYPTIANS THEMSELVES ABOUT WHAT PRESIDENT SADAT MIGHT SAY IN HIS SPEECH? WERE YOU NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE?

A. I'M UNAWARE OF IT. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. HAS HE EVER REFUSED TO PASS ON VIEWS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE OTHER SIDE?

A. NO, HE HAS NOT.

Q. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF UNCONFIRMED REPORTS YESTERDAY ON THE WIRES THAT PRESIDENT FORD AND THE SECRETARY MIGHT BE MEETING EITHER WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN, WITH PRESIDENT SADAT, OR WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD OF SYRIA IN VIENNA. LAST WEEKEND THAT MEETING -- IF ANY OF THOSE MEETINGS HAD IN FACT BEEN PLANNED -- FELL THROUGH AND FORD CANCELLED HIS PLANS TO VISIT VIENNA. CAN YOU CONFIRM ANY PART OF THAT OR SHED ANY LIGHT ON WHETHER THOSE REPORTS ARE TRUE?

A. I CANNOT. IN MY DAILY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY NONE OF THESE POSSIBILITIES HAS EVER ARISEN IN ANY OF MY DISCUSSIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE MEETINGS WITH THE GENTLEMEN TO WHICH YOU REFER. I CAN'T SHED ANY LIGHT.

Q. IN YOUR DAILY CONTACTS WITH THE SECRETARY DOES HE EXPRESS OPTIMISM ABOUT ACHIEVING AN INTERIM AGREEMENT?

A. THE SECRETARY FEELS THAT PROGRESS CONTINUES TO BE MADE.
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AND I JUST DON'T WANT TO GO BEYOND THAT. THIS IS AN ONGOING NEGOTIATION, AS I'VE SAID HERE MANY TIMES. AND HE LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING AMBASSADOR DINITZ ONCE HE HAS RECEIVED ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FROM AMBASSADOR EILTS.

Q. IS THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST GETTING TO THE POINT WHERE THE SECRETARY IS MAKING, OR IS ABOUT TO MAKE, U.S. SUGGESTIONS?

YOU KNOW, OFTEN IN THE PAST AS THE PROCESS CRYSTALIZES, HE THEN STEPS IN AND MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS OF HIS OWN. IS HE AT THAT POINT YET -- OR IS HE JUST A TRANSMISSION BELT RIGHT NOW?

A. I WOULD SAY THAT PRIMARILY THE SECRETARY IS TRANSMITTING IDEAS BACK AND FORTH, POSSIBLY GIVING HIS SUGGESTIONS.

AND IN THE PAST IT IS AS HE HAS TOLD ALL OF US MANY TIMES, THAT -- SAY WITH A SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IT CAME TO A POINT WHERE HIS IDEAS, ONCE THE PARTIES BECAME CLOSE ENOUGH TOGETHER, MAYBE HIS SUGGESTIONS, THE UNITED STATES SUGGESTIONS, WOULD BE HELPFUL. WHO KNOWS IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE WHETHER THAT SAME PATTERN WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED? I THINK IT IS PREMATURE TO SAY AT THIS STAGE.

Q. BUT WE ARE NOT AT THIS POINT YET?

A. I MAY NOT BE NECESSARY TO BE AT THAT POINT. WE JUST DO NOT KNOW YET.

Q. IS IT THE FTATE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION THAT IT IS OPPOSED TO ANY COMPROMISE ON THE INTENDED SALE OF MORE THAN 300 HAWK MISSILES TO JORDAN? OR IS IT PREPARED TO ENTERTAIN A COMPROMISE?

A. ON THE REPORTING ON THIS SUBJECT AS YOU KNOW WE ARE CONSULTING WITH THE CONGRESS ON THE PROPOSAL TO SELL JORDAN AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. AND THE PURPOSE OF THESE CONSULTATIONS THAT WE ARE NOW HAVING, PARTICULARLY WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, IS TO FIND A WAY THAT WE CAN CARRY OUT OUR COMMITMENT TO JORDAN AND ALSO, NATURALLY, TO MEET CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN -- AND THESE CONSULTATIONS ARE CONTINUING.

Q. THIS MEANSTHAT THE UNITED STATES COULD BE DISPOSED TO CONSIDER A COMPROMISE ABOUT THE WILL OF CONGRESS?

A. I WOULD JUST LIKE TO LEAVE IT THAT WE ARE CONSULTING WITH THE CONGRESS ON THIS SUBJECT. WE WILL BE DOING IT TODAY, AND WE WILL CONTINUE --

Q. THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU AID YESTERDAY.

A. IN WHAT WAY?

Q. WELL, YESTERDAY YOU SAID THAT IT WAS YOUR VIEW THAT IT SHOULD GO AHEAD AS PLANNED. AND YOU HOPED THE CONGRESS WOULD SEE IT YOUR WAY.

A. AND I AM SAYING RIGHT NOW THAT WE WANT TO FIND A WAY THAT WE CAN CARRY OUT OUR COMMITMENT TO JORDAN AND ALSO TO MEET CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN. AND THIS IS WHAT WE ARE CONSULTING ABOUT NOW AND HOPE THAT THE PROBLEM CAN BE RESOLVED ALONG THE LINES I HAVE JUST SAID.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY "CARRY OUT A COMMITMENT" YOU MEAN TO CARRY OUT THE FULL COMMITMENT FOR THE FULL \$350 MILLION?

A. YES, SIR. I AM NOT CONFIRMING THE FIGURE, BUT THE WHOLE PACKAGE COMMITMENT THAT WE MADE TO THE KING OF JORDAN WHEN HE WAS HERE LAST SPRING.

Q. WAS ANY THOUGHT GIVEN TO CONSULTING WITH CONGRESS BEFORE THE COMMITMENT WAS MADE?

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE WAS CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS ON THIS SUBJECT. I CANNOT TELL YOU EXACTLY WHEN. I CANNOT TELL YOU THE EXACT NATURE OF IT, BUT --

Q. WAS CONGRESS TOLD THAT WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD IN UNCLASSIFIED

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MIND, WAS A SALE OF FOURTEEN MISSILE BATTERIES VALUED AT ABOUT \$350 MILLION? OR WAS CONGRESS TOLD \$100 MILLION AND THREE BATTERIES?

A. I DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO -- LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY: I DO NOT WISH TO GET INTO THE SPECIFIC FIGURES THAT --

Q. YOU SAID YOU CONSULTED --

A. THE DEPARTMENT CONSULTED WITH THE CONGRESS ON THE AGREEMENT WITH THE, FOR THE WHOLE PACKAGE, WITH THE KING OF JORDAN.

Q. AFTER THE PACKAGE WAS AGREED TO WITH THE KING OF JORDAN?

A. I BELIEVE THERE WERE PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS BEFORE THAT, BUT I WILL DOUBLE CHECK IT. BUT I DO KNOW THAT CERTAINLY RIGHT AFTER THE KING'S VISIT, THAT THIS WAS DONE.

Q. WELL
GOING BACK OVER IT -- THE COMMITTEE JURISDICTION IS THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, AND THEY APPARENTLY WERE SURPRISED TO DISCOVER THAT THE DEAL INVOLVED 14 BATTERIES RATHER THAN THREE BATTERIES, WHICH IS WHAT HAD BEEN TALKED ABOUT BACK IN MAY.

THE ISRAELIS, APPARENTLY, WERE INFORMED BACK IN MAY THAT THERE WOULD BE A DELIVERY OF THREE BATTERIES SOMETIME EARLY IN 1976.

THE DISCREPANCY WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT IS THAT EXTRA ELEVEN BATTERIES. WAS THAT INVOLVED IN THE CONSULTATIONS OR NOT?

A. THAT WAS PART OF THE WHOLE PACKAGE, BUT ONE THING THAT

I THINK WE OUGHT TO REMEMBER HERE, IS THAT, ON THE QUESTION OF DELIVERY, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE PERIOD ROUGHLY 1978 OR '79 BEFORE EVERYTHING WOULD BE DELIVERED.

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Q. WELL, IT IS A FOUR YEAR DEAL.

A. HES.

Q. BUT WHEN ANY LARGE SALE OF F-5S IS MADE TO SAUDI ARABIA, IT IS ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT IT TAKES PLACE OVER AN AMOUNT OF TIME.

A. YES.

Q. AND THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THAT. BUT IT DOESN'T APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN INFORMED IN THIS CASE -- UNLESS --

A. I CANNOT ADD TO WHAT I HAVE JUST SAID TO MARILYN, AND THIS IS THE UNDERSTANDING I HAVE, HAVING DISCUSSED IT UPSTAIRS TODAY WITH ROY ATHERTON.

Q. WAS THE ISRAEL GOVERNMENT INFORMED IN MAY, THAT THERE WOULD BE A 14-BATTERY SALE TO JORDAN?

A. I AM NOT SURE WHETHER THEY WERE, OR WERE NOT.

Q. THEY WERE INFORMED OF THREE BATTERIES?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WAS THREE, OR SIX, OR WHETHER IT WAS 14 OR NOT -- I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. WHY SOULD IT NOT HAVE BEEN 14, IF IT WAS 14?

A. THAT IS A VERY GOOD QUESTION. LET ME CHECK IT OUT AND I WILL SEE IF I CAN GET ANYTHING MORE CONCRETE ON THE CONVERSATIONS --

Q. ALSO NAYTHING ELSE ON THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN FOR THIS SALE WHICH WERE CARRIED OUT IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH, AS I UNDERSTAND IT. A TEAM WENT OVER IN FEBRUARY-- WITH VARIOUS OPTIONS -- AND THEN THIS PACKAGE WAS WORKED OUT DURING THAT TIME AND DECIDED UPON IN APRIL.

WAS THERE CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS DURING THAT PERIOD
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OF NEGOTIATIONS?

A. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE WERE SOME CONVERSATIONS, OR CONSULTATIONS ON THE HILL AT THAT TIME -- BUT

I WANT TO DOUBLE CHECK IT.

Q. THE PACKAGES INVOLVED WERE FROM \$100 MILLION TO \$500 MILLION -- SO THIS ALL CLEARLY FALLS WITHIN THE LEGISLATION REQUIRING THE REPORTING.

A. RIGHT -- OF THE TWENTY-DAY AMENDMENT. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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